

# AccessibleEU – Accessibility Indicators

## Highlights 2024

### Cyprus

## Background

AccessibleEU intends to monitor action and progress of member states to implement accessibility legislation and standards by using a framework largely based on the [United Nations \(2020\) Article 9: Illustrative Indicators, Human Rights Indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

This monitoring framework is composed of structural indicators, process indicators, and outcome indicators:

- **Structural indicators** aim to capture the institutional aspects of national commitments.
- **Progress indicators** focus on efforts of member states to transform commitments into results.
- **Outcome indicators** relate to the impact of commitments and efforts onto individuals.

AccessibleEU uses a total of 30 indicators covering the areas of Built Environment, Transport, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Public Policies.

## Overview for Cyprus

**Percentage of people with disabilities** ([Eurostat, 2024](#)): 21.10%

**AccessibleEU National Experts:** [Katerina Mavrou](#)

**National Council of Persons with Disabilities** (member of the European Disability Forum): [Cyprus Confederation of Organisations of the Disabled](#)

[Annual Country Report 2024 for Cyprus](#)

## Structural indicators

**Topic:** Legislation enacted ensuring the right to access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, services, information and communications, including ICTs, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas.

- **Findings:** Legislation in built environment, ICT and public policies seem to address explicitly the right to equal access for a broad scope of disability related obstacle, but no specific information has been identified regarding enforcement mechanisms. There is no specific legislation or guidelines on public transportation accessibility, but accessibility is referred in several other legislation or guidelines.

**Topic:** Incorporation of EU accessibility standards and/or transposition of EU Directives in national legal frameworks

- **Findings:** Indicators met in the areas of built environment, transport and ICT. EN 17210 is supported in the National standard, namely Accessibility and Usability of the built environment - Technical performance criteria and specification document [[CYS CEN/TR 17621:2021](#)]

**Topic:** Accessibility related Strategic and action planning is up to date on national level and aligned with EU relevant strategies.

- **Findings:** The new National Disability Action Plan and revised National Disability Strategy 2024-2028 are available in [draft documents](#), as consultation process concluded April 2024. In the draft action plan, Pillar 3 specifically refers to accessibility.

## Process indicators

**Topic:** Training on universal design and accessibility standards is part of higher education courses/ professional accreditation.

- **Findings:** There are no official training programmes on accessibility for professionals, neither any accreditation courses. However, some Higher Education institutions, both public and private, either offer accessibility and universal design courses within their existing programmes of study or include issues relevant to accessibility and universal design in other courses curricula, often relevant to design, or human rights, or inclusion and inclusive education.

**Topic:** Implementation of accessibility audits on government facilities, services and programmes that require the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including with respect to emergency protocols, procedures, services and facilities.

- **Findings:** Accessibility audits are implemented in the sectors of the built environment (e.g.: [Department of Urban Planning and Housing](#)) and ICT (e.g.: [Digital Services Factory \(DSF\) team](#)). There is no evidence of persons with disabilities being involved in the audits. No accessibility audits have been identified in the areas of transport and public policies.

**Topic:** Awareness raising campaigns and activities to promote accessibility across all services open to the public and promote knowledge of universal design and accessibility standards by relevant professionals, manufacturers and service providers, as well as informing individuals of their rights and responsibilities as they relate to accessibility.

- **Findings:** In general, the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and the Independent Mechanism for the Promotion, Protection and Monitoring of the UNCRPD (Office of the Ombudsperson and Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights) are responsible for raising public awareness on the equality and rights of persons with disabilities. Seminars, day events, round tables, presentations and various publications are organised from time to time for this purpose.

**Topic:** Incentives and support provision to improve accessibility in the provision of goods and services and/or information about accessibility to potential users.

- **Findings:** Currently, there are no key measures from public authorities to incentivise providers to improve accessibility.

**Topic:** Consultation processes undertaken to ensure the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, regulations, policies and programs, related to accessibility of the built environment, transportation, information and communication.

- **Findings:** In general, national strategies and legislative procedures go through public consultation processes. In addition, an open call to the umbrella disability organisation, as well as to individual disability organisations is often published/sent. Disability representatives are also invited during parliamentary meetings that examine relevant strategies (e.g.: parliamentary committee meeting in April 2024 in relation to the discussions on the Accessibility of Products and Services Law).

## Outcome indicators

**Topic:** Reported access to public transport, public buildings/spaces and websites and compliance with legal requirements.

- **Findings:** No aggregated data is available on the levels of accessibility of programs and services. However, some information is reported in the [evaluation report for the implementation of the Third National Disability Action Plan 2021-2023](#)